

# Big Bend

## Ranger Programs

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Big Bend National Park  
Rio Grande Wild & Scenic River



### March 01 - 05, 2016

#### Tuesday, March 1

**3:00 PM Guided Walk – “Desert Trivia”** What defines a desert? Considered desolate, uninhabitable lands by some, deserts can be places of spectacular diversity and stark beauty. Join Ranger M. Lavender and learn about the deserts of the US, and what makes the Chihuahuan Desert of Big Bend so special. Meet at Dugout Wells, 6 miles southeast of Panther Junction. Bring water, a hat, and good walking shoes. ½ mile. 1 hour.

#### Wednesday, March 2

**9:30 AM Guided Walk – “Birds Do Crazy Things”** Observe Texas specialty birds and explore some of their unique behaviors. Stroll Rio Grande Village area (approximately 1 mile). Meet Volunteers J. and S. Ewan at the Rio Grande Village Amphitheater parking area. Please bring water and binoculars if you have them. 1 hour.

**9:30 AM Guided Walk – “The Birth of the CCC”** There was a cry that came from our country in the 1930's; a cry of hunger, poverty, and lack of work. Franklin D. Roosevelt heard this cry and strove to do something about it, creating the Civilian Conservation Corp. Join Ranger K. Eckert to learn more about the creation of the CCC, and see their lasting handiwork here in Big Bend National Park. Meet at the Chisos Basin Trailhead. 1/3 mile walk. Wheelchair accessible. 45 minutes.

#### Thursday, March 3

**9:30 AM Caravan – “Geology 101”** – Let's make some sense of how this place came to be. Join Volunteer P. Spruell for a driving tour from Sotol Vista to Goat Mountain to Tuff canyon (three stops – eleven to twelve total miles) and cram 300 million years of geologic history into two hours. Parking is limited at the last two stops and carpooling is encouraged. Meet at the Sotol Vista Overlook. 2 hours.

#### Friday, March 4

**9:30 AM Guided Walk – “The Way We Walk”** Many of us have enjoyed hiking on trails, but have you ever thought about how or why these trails were built? Join Ranger J. Woerner for a closer look at the work and thought behind trail building. Meet at the Chisos Basin Trailhead. Bring water, a hat, and good walking shoes. 1/2 mile. 45 minutes.

**7:30 PM Evening Program – “Jet Fighters & Hang Gliders: The World of Big Bend's Raptors”** Big Bend is home to a rich diversity of birds, including raptors. Join Ranger M. Lavender for a visual program to learn more about this unique type of bird, how to identify them in the wild, and what makes them so inspirational. Meet at the Chisos Basin Amphitheater. Wheelchair accessible. Bring a flashlight. 1 hour.

#### Saturday, March 5

**9:30 AM Program – “Scorpions”** How is a scorpion like an alligator? What do they have in common with seals? Join Ranger K. Eckert to learn more about scorpions, common misconceptions, and the unusual similarities they have to other species. Meet on the patio outside the Chisos Mountains Lodge. Wheelchair accessible. 45 minutes.

**7:30 PM Evening Program – “Big Cats in Big Bend”** Solitary and elusive, mountain lions have incited mystery, myth, and the imagination. Although often feared by people, these cats play an important role in the health of Big Bend's ecology. Join Ranger J. Woerner to learn about these powerfully misunderstood creatures and what makes them so special. Meet at the Chisos Basin Amphitheater. Bring a flashlight. Wheelchair accessible. 45 minutes.

**8:30 PM Evening Program – “Star-gazing with Binoculars and the Naked Eye”** You don't need a telescope to locate and enjoy many of the natural wonders in the night skies over Big Bend National Park. Join Volunteer R. Wonite for a laser-guided tour of the more prominent stars, star clusters, and nebulae in the winter sky [weather permitting]. Meet at the pullout at Mile 15.3 on the road to Rio Grande Village. Wheelchair accessible. Bring binoculars and/or a chair if you have them. 1 hour.